

Appl. No. 10/661,367
Amdt. dated March 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 8, 2006

Atty. Ref. 81912.0015
Customer No. 26021

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-10 were presented. Claims 1 and 5 are amended, claims 2 and 6-10 are canceled without prejudice, and new claims 11-13 are added. Thus, claims 1, 3-5 and 11-13 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6, which depends from intervening claim 2 and base claim 1, is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is rewritten to include all limitations of dependent claims 2 and 6, and dependent claims 2 and 6 are canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections -- 35 USC 102 and 103

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Aizawa (US 5,013,926). Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Aizawa. Claims 2 and 5 are rejected as obvious over Aizawa in view of Ehalt (US 4,931,656).

The grounds for rejection of claim 1 are moot since claim 1 has been amended into allowable form. Claims 2 and 7-10 are canceled, without prejudice, rendering their rejections moot. Claims 3-5 depend or are amended to depend from allowable claim 1, and are therefore similarly allowable.

New Claims

New claims 11-13 are added and depend from claims 3 and 4 which, in turn, depend from allowable claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that claims 11-13 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For these reasons, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that

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remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: March 30, 2006

By: 

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